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THE JERUSALEM POST

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MARGINAL COLUMN

By GEORGE LEONOF

STILL an incidental aspect of the Suez Canal dispute, but one which bears all signs of acquiring considerable long-range significance, is the manner in which the controversy has reflected the influence of the Bandung Conference. In May, 1955, the Asian and African countries — most of them former colonial or semi-dependent territories — met for the first time in history to pass resolutions which were tantamount to a charter of moral and practical solidarity. The numerous resolutions adopted dealt with cultural and economic cooperation, with human rights and self-determination, with international cooperation and world peace. But its underlying purpose was to emphasize that not only East and West must meet, but that the two shall meet as equals.

To a limited extent, the Suez crisis has provided the first real test outside the United Nations of this concept of equality for a number of Asian and African states. From Turkey, which has long occupied a seat of dignity at Western councils, and Japan, whose defeat of Russia in 1905 elevated her to the rank of a first-rate world power, five other Asian states have been among the 23 nations attending the London conference opening today — India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Persia and Ethiopia — comprising nearly a third of the conference.

C-O-L Index Dips Five Points In Month

The cost of living index dropped five points in July, and now stands at 244, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

This is one of the biggest reductions ever to take place in the index, and it rises no more than two points this month, it will mean a drop in the Cost of Living allowance (unless there is a change in the prevailing system). There was no change in the index last month, and a three-point change in the three-month period means a readjustment of the allowance.

Drop Unprecedented

Bureau officials do not recall a previous instance since the present index was instituted at the end of 1951, where the allowance was decreased.

The decline in the index is attributed to the reduction in the prices of fruits and vegetables, particularly tomatoes, beans, eggplants, peppers, leeks, grapes, melons and watermelon.

The fact that greater quantities of rationed frozen meat and fish fillet were sold in July than in June also contributed to the drop.

On the other hand, there was a price increase on margarine and oil and in Hladrat dues (following the latest increase in the C-O-L allowance).

Democrats Pledge To Give Israel Arms

CHICAGO, Wednesday (INA). — The Democratic Platform Committee today drew up a resolution pledging the Democratic Party to supply defensive arms to Israel and to take steps to guarantee Israel's security from Arab attack. The text of the plank is almost assured of passage by the Convention when the platform is adopted later tonight.

"We urge the Arabs and Israel to settle their differences by peaceful means and to maintain the free access to the holy places," the platform plank begins. The statement goes on to promise aid to Israel to assist her in her humanitarian mission of caring for Jewish refugees and to sell or supply her with arms to redress the "dangerous imbalance in the area" created by the shipment of Communist weapons to Egypt.

The party pledged itself to carry out its obligations under the 1948 tripartite agreement to oppose the use of force and to take such action in the area as may be necessary in the interests of peace within and without the U.N.

Stand on Saudi Hit

With reference to Saudi Arabian discrimination against American Jews, the statement declared that the party "opposes as contrary to American principles the policy of the U.S. Government into a treaty with any government which countenances racial prejudice."

The platform declared that the Democrats, if elected, will "assist the Arab peoples to develop their economic resources and raise the living standard of their people. The plight of the Arab refugees also commanded the Democrats' continuing sympathy and concern and they promise to assist them in their resettlement in countries where there is room and opportunity for them."



ADLAI STEVENSON
Stevenson Seen As 'Certainty'

CHICAGO, Wednesday (UP). Mr. Adlai Stevenson was practically assured of the Democratic presidential nomination today when the Democratic convention was freed by their "fury" over the Eisenhower administration's switch to the former Illinois Governor.

The switch brought his unofficially committed total of delegates to within 100 of the 1,000 needed to win the first ballot.

The campaign managers of his chief opponent, Governor Averell Harriman of New York, admitted privately that Mr. Stevenson "apparently has enough votes now" to win the nomination. Mr. Harriman, who has the backing of ex-President Harry Truman, meanwhile continued to go through the motions of lining up additional supporters.

South Uncertain

The only thing that could stop Mr. Stevenson at this juncture is a revolt in the Southern states, where the civil rights plank in the party platform has produced a reaction of uneasiness. Mr. Harriman's nominal supporters.

The plank, as passed by a vote of 13 to 5, emphasizes the rights of every American child "irrespective of race" to every educational opportunity. The statement rejected all proposals for the use of force to interfere with the application of recent decisions of the Supreme Court relating to public support of schools.

It remained an open question tonight if the Southern delegates would follow the lead of the Supreme Court when it came before the full convention. The five opposing votes were all Southern.

Jakarta Army Fails in Bid To Hold Abdulgani

JAKARTA, Wednesday (Reuters). — Premier Ali Sastroamidjojo told Parliament tonight that the Indonesian Army had tried to detain foreign Minister Ruzlan Abdulgani for a few hours before he was due to leave for the London talks on the Suez Canal. The Premier's statement followed a conference earlier today with members of his cabinet and party leaders on an army investigation into alleged corruption.

Mr. Abdulgani is leading the Indonesian delegation at the Suez Canal conference. Dr. Sastroamidjojo told Parliament that early on Monday, Mrs. Abdulgani telephoned him to say that her husband had been arrested by military personnel had come to the Foreign Minister's house and had given her the impression they wanted to detain her husband.

"I telephoned the Chief of Staff of the Army, Major-General Naudito, and told him that such a step would harm our country because the Foreign Minister that day had to leave for London to head Indonesia's delegation to the Suez Canal conference," the Prime Minister said. He ordered Mr. Gen. Naudito to take action that would ensure the release of Mrs. Abdulgani to leave for London.

Dr. Sastroamidjojo said that on the evidence before the police there was no reason to believe that Mrs. Abdulgani could assist them in their investigations in the case of Lie Rok Tri, a government printing office official charged with corruption.

The Premier charged that "certain elements" had sought to make "political gain" from the affair and cause the collapse of the Government and create dissension in the armed forces.

The Ministry of Justice would draft an anti-corruption law "as soon as possible." Dr. Sastroamidjojo said. He assured Parliament that the cabinet was in agreement on measures to meet the present "difficulties."

Nasser Sends Top Adviser To London Parley Opening Today

Shepilov Sees Dulles, Lloyd Sabry Named in Surprise Move

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuters). — The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Shepilov, had his first meeting with Western statesmen today, on the eve of the 22-nation conference on the Suez crisis.

He talked for just over an hour at the U.S. Embassy with Mr. Dulles, the U.S. Secretary of State, and earlier paid a call at the Foreign Office to meet Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd.

It was Mr. Shepilov's first contact with Western Foreign Ministers since he succeeded Mr. Molotov as Foreign Minister last June. The Suez conference will be his introduction to international gatherings in the role of Foreign Minister.

Leaders of all the conference nations were in London tonight exchanging views and making final arrangements for the meeting. Notable absentee was Egypt, whose President Nasser touched off the world crisis over control of the Suez Canal three weeks ago by nationalizing the waterway. She declined an invitation to attend.

The big question is whether the conference can find a formula acceptable to Egypt and the Western powers.

Troop Movements

Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden opened the "private" conference to protect the Suez Canal without mentioning Israel. In the past few days, both Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Menzies, have spoken over the air and made the same omission.

Meanwhile, in Istanbul yesterday, the right of free passage through the Canal was defended by Mr. Dihad Baban, Chairman of the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Baban warned the countries convened in London for the Canal talks that the acceptance of partial guarantees is not enough. "Can one say that the principle of free passage through the Canal is implemented if Israel is still deprived of this right?" he asked.

Reports from Stockholm say the newspaper "Dagens Nyheter" on Monday sharply criticized the opinion, voiced by official British circles, that the Egyptian blockade of Israel is to be kept separate from the Canal issue. "The paper called it a 'most amazing attitude' and said these circles tend to ignore the clear and incontrovertible proof of the Egyptian dictator's disregard for the unaccepted right of all nations to free navigation in the Suez Canal."

While expressing fears that the Suez Canal will not be able to honor its obligations, the paper goes on, they lose sight of the strongest argument of all that for nearly a decade Egypt has used its control of the Canal for purposes of political blackmail.

Only France Backs Israel's Rights

LONDON, Wednesday (INA). — Of the Big Three sponsors of the Suez Canal talks, only France has so far said publicly that she considers that freedom of navigation is a right through the Suez Canal for all.

"All" is meant to include Israel, British and U.S. spokesmen reply with indistinguishable sounds when asked if this is also their view.

Israel circles here fear that some agreement might be reached to the satisfaction of the Western powers which would allow the Egyptian blockade of Israel shipping to continue.

Britain still remains shy of any mention of Israel's case though she has assured Israel that she has her interest in mind. Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd last night became the third major political figure to broadcast to the nation on the Suez Canal without mentioning Israel. In the past few days, both Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Menzies, have spoken over the air and made the same omission.

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Arabs Strike Today To Protest Talks

The general strike called throughout the Arab world today to protest the opening of the London conference will be highlighted today by five minutes of "mourning of freedom" at 11 a.m. Cairo time.

All business and traffic will come to an absolute standstill while every Arab registers a silent protest against the Suez Canal talks, the Middle East News Agency reported yesterday.

The strike began at midnight last night and will last for 24 hours.

In Egypt, the strike will be observed by Government officials, transport workers, lawyers, airport employees, commercial establishments, cinemas, theatres and banks. The operation of the Suez Canal will not be affected, nor will other essential public services including electricity, water, and communication.

The Marconi Radio Telegraph Company's administrative personnel in Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said, will join the strike, but the operating staff will stop work for only 15 minutes at noon today in Libya, Morocco and the Bahrain Protectorate. The Libyan Government warned the demonstrators, however, that it would brook no interference with the supply of essential services during the strike.

Truck Hits Mine Near Sde Boker

A civilian truck hit a mine north of Sde Boker on Tuesday night, the Army spokesman reported yesterday.

The mine had been laid by Arab infiltrators.

The truck was damaged, but there were no casualties.

Israel submitted a complaint to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

French Troops Said Flown To Cyprus

NICOSIA, Wednesday. — Military transports continued to come and go at Nicosia airport yesterday night, with French troops being flown to Cyprus.

The big military airfield was sealed off to the public and the airport was closed to all other flights. It would be responsible for finance, operation, maintenance and would ensure that the principle of free navigation is maintained.

Draft Plan Circulated

This draft plan has been circulated among the other countries attending the conference — Australia, Ceylon, Denmark, Ethiopia, West Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Persia, Portugal, the Soviet Union, Spain and Sweden. The Soviet Union heads the opposition to the Western plan, supporting Egypt's nationalization of the Canal, and considers any move against it would be interference with Egyptian sovereignty. The policy of other powers besides Russia and the West is "Three" at the conference has not so far been clarified.

States expected to back the three-power Western plan include Australia, New Zealand, Holland, Portugal, Turkey and Sweden. On the other hand, India, Ceylon and Indonesia are believed to favour a solution which would explicitly affirm Egypt's right to nationalize the former Suez Canal company.

These were some of the points on the order by (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Ceylon Has 'Certain' Solutions for Suez

COLOMBO, Wednesday (Reuters). — Prime Minister Bandaranaike said today he had certain solutions in mind when asked whether he had put forward any proposals to the Suez Canal dispute.

"They will be discussed at the London conference," he added, but refused to be drawn into details.

He addressed a press conference after concluding a telephone call with Sir Claude Coombs, Ceylon's High Commissioner in London, who conferred with Abdul Nasser in Cairo during the week-end.

The Premier said Sir Claude met the Egyptian leader on his behalf and had a "friendly and full discussion" which was very helpful in finding the precise position of Egypt over this matter.

U.N. Denies Jordan Complaint Received

U.N. Headquarters in Jerusalem said last night that they had received no complaint of an alleged violation of the armistice agreement between Jordan and Israel by three Israeli jet planes.

An Arab League spokesman in Amman told a Reuters correspondent yesterday that one of a flight of three Israeli Meteor jets had been damaged by an anti-aircraft battery in the Jenin area. He said that Jordan had filed a complaint with the Mixed Armistice Commission.

Belgian Rescuers Still Seeking Route to Trapped Miners

MARCELLE, Belgium, Wednesday (Reuters). — Technicians at the Bitter Heart mine today were trying to find a new route to reach galleries where there was a fading hope that some of the 276 miners, trapped a week ago by fire, might still be alive.

The new route may be attempted in addition to rescue work going on at the Bitter Heart pit, but that delay might lead to a typhus outbreak spurred on rescue teams. Rubber-gloved soldiers at the pithead this morning brought up the dead in buckets of disinfectant.

Mr. Louis Troolet, Belgian Labour Minister, said today the new route from the 505-metre gallery to a gallery 575 metres down did not exist, but it established a danger for rescue workers at the 500-metre level. He added that the fire seemed to be diminishing and there appeared to be a fall in the content of poisonous gases in various parts of the mine.

Meanwhile, an administrative judicial inquiry conducted by an investigating magistrate is going on, and in Luxembourg the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community plans to call an inter-governmental conference immediately.

Mr. Troolet said a collective funeral for the victims who came from Marcelle would be held on Friday.

Eighty-three bodies found 539 metres down in the Bitter Heart pit had been brought up by this morning. An official announcement said that all the bodies so far found had now been brought to the surface.

ISRAELI CONDOLENCES

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Golda Meir, yesterday called on the Belgian Foreign Minister on the occasion of the Marcelle mine disaster.

The Speaker of the Knesset, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, expressed Israel's sympathy for the families of the miners killed in the Belgian mine disaster and the Belgian people.

Jordan Wants Talks in Amman, Not London

The Jordan Minister of Finance, Sabah Ghadeb, announced yesterday that the Jordan Government had decided to hold the annual October financial talks between Jordan and Britain this year in Amman, rather than in London as has been customary.

He emphasized that Jordan would not back down on this point.

Ghadeb revealed that Jordan had this year received \$11.2m. from Britain under the Anglo-Jordanian treaty. Of this sum, \$3.7m. was allocated to the Arab Legion and the remainder spent on the National Guard or disbursed by the Anglo-Jordanian Reconversion Fund.

The Finance Minister also said that he had informed the head of the U.S. Operations Mission in Jordan, Mr. Harold Nelson, that the Government had decided to alter certain passages in the technical aid agreement with the U.S. in order to safeguard Jordanian national integrity.

SALEM RAPPED FOR 'BLOWING UP' THREAT

CAIRO, Wednesday (UP). — Egypt has "reproached" the former Minister of National Guidance, Salah Salem, for saying the Suez Canal would be blown up if Egypt is invaded, informed sources said here tonight.

Salem made the statement in London when he arrived there to cover the Suez conference for his newspaper, "Al-Shaam."

In London tonight, Salem told a radio audience that "it is quite disastrous that such a line should be made for the sake of 10m. enjoyed by a few shareholders in the Suez Canal Company."

GADNA AIR CADETS BACK FROM U.S.

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The Gadna air cadets, comprising five cadets and their accompanying officer, Rav-Seren Yitzhak Sela, returned to Israel today in a U.S. Air Force plane. They had spent a month in the U.S. as guests of the Civil Air Patrol.

The five young men of the Gadna Air Corps, who had spent the same length of time in Israel, returned to the U.S. in the same plane.

Nasser Decided on 'Suez Battle' Half Year Ago, Says Cairo Editor

CAIRO, Wednesday (Reuters). — The weekly magazine "Al-Ahram" said today that President Nasser had decided five or six months ago to wage the "Suez Canal battle" this year.

The magazine was aiming at nationalization of the Canal as a natural sequel to the withdrawal of British forces from the Canal Zone, the magazine said.

The Editor, Mohamed Heykal said in an article that the connection between nationalization and the withdrawal of the offer to finance the Aswan Dam project was "simply one of timing and not one of cause and effect."

Heykal said that after signing the Anglo-Egyptian evacuation agreement in 1954, President Nasser learned that there was talk in London about plans for international control of the Canal after the expiration of the Canal Company concession. At the same time, the Company's Director-General, Mr. George Pictet, flew from Paris to New York to contact the American oil companies in order to use their influence with the Egyptian Government to secure a 20-year extension of the concession, with Egyptian Government participation.

Colonel Nasser's "unanimous election as President and the nation-wide backing he received at the polls provided encouragement. The time and manner of the withdrawal of the Western offer to finance the Aswan high dam project merely created the psychological convenient moment he was waiting for," the article concluded.

NEHRU WARMS AGAINST Force in Canal Issue

NEW DELHI, Wednesday (Reuters). — Premier Nehru warned today that if any force was tried to settle the Suez Canal crisis by armed force or threats "it will lead to a conflagration which might spread throughout the entire world."

Mr. Nehru, who was addressing a mass independence rally today, said he hoped this week's London conference would be able to find a peaceful solution for the new crisis that has arisen in the world.

Egypt Denies Report Of Iraqi Mediation

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuters). — A spokesman at the Egyptian Embassy here tonight denied that Egypt had asked Iraq to mediate in her dispute with Britain over the Suez Canal.

The Embassy spokesman said, "We have asked Iraq to do nothing of the sort. It is one of the signatories to the Arab League statement that backed Egypt's move."

Reports predicting Iraq's mediation emanated from "reliable sources" in Baghdad.

LEBANESE TRADE PACT

BEIRUT, Wednesday. — A trade agreement was signed in Beirut yesterday, according to ARA.

Gov't Offers Bus Firms More

The Ministerial Economic Committee yesterday approved bus fare increases of 8.1 per cent for Egged and 9.9 per cent for Dan and Hama. The increase for Dan and Hama is 17 per cent higher than the increase recommended by the Barzak Commission.

The Minister of Transport, Mr. Moshe Carmel, met with representatives of the bus co-operatives in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon and informed them of the Government's decision.

An official communiqué gives the following explanation: "The Ministerial Economic Committee took into account on the one hand the increase in the cost of fuel, and on the other hand the increase in the cost of maintenance and repair of the buses, and the fact that the cost of the buses is increasing rapidly."

The communiqué also stated that the Government is prepared to consider a reduction in the fare if the co-operatives meet the Government's demand for a reduction in the cost of maintenance and repair of the buses.

2 Cyprus Prisoners Flee from Hospital

NICOSIA, Wednesday (Reuters). — Four armed men today held up two warders at Nicosia General Hospital and "rescued" two prisoners who were under treatment.

The gunmen entered the hospital by the service entrance and found the two warders sitting with the two prisoners in a laboratory. They motioned other patients at gunpoint into a nearby room and forced the warders to unlock the prisoners' handcuffs.

The six then went downstairs to a waiting car and escaped.

Police with tracking dogs were rushed to the hospital but were unable to pick up any traces.

Meanwhile, a Turkish Cypriot named Ali Hussein was shot dead last night in the village of Thomas, near Limassol. The Turkish Cypriot was on the verandah of his house with his wife and young child when two masked gunmen opened fire with shotguns.

Mapam Issues Call To Clear Oren

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — A call to clear the name of Mordechai Oren, Mapam leader who was released last May after serving 4 1/2 years in a British prison, was issued yesterday at a meeting of the Mapam Central Committee here.

The call included a proposal to set up an international committee for the rehabilitation of Oren in the world at large.

The meeting had been convened for a tentative appraisal of the Government's attitude towards the rehabilitation of Oren.

Mr. Y. Hagan, M.K., opened the proceedings with a review of security and political affairs, while the Minister of Development, Mr. Ben-Zur, reported on the work of the cabinet members.

Morocco Lifts Ban On Passports to Jews

RABAT, Wednesday (Reuters). — The Office of the Governor of Casablanca announced yesterday that all restrictions on the issuing of passports to Moroccan Jews were lifted and that applicants could call and collect them.

Moroccan Jews who had applied for passports had not been able to obtain them for the past 17 days, and the delay was attributed to an official attempt to slow down Jewish emigration.

Government sources said it resulted only from a staff shortage in the passport office.

BARZILAI FOR FRANCE

LYON AIRPORT, Wednesday. — An M.I. plane destined for New York was held up for 30 minutes today waiting for the Minister of Health, Mr. I. Barzilai, who left for France.

JORDAN CIVIL DEFENCE

A delegation of Jordan officers and engineers is to be sent to Cairo for training in civil defence tactics, "Palestine" the Old City daily, reported yesterday.

ARE THERE ANY IDEAS

behind the new regime which the Cairo junta has given Egypt? The answer is provided by W.S. Laqueur in a survey of the "philosophy of Nasserism" that he has approved in Cairo. The last part of the article appears in tomorrow's issue of "The Jerusalem Post."

UNRWA HEAD RECALLED

The U.N. Secretary-General has recalled to New York Mr. Henry Labrousse, U.N. R.W.A. Director in the Middle East, "Palestine" the Old City daily, reported yesterday.

A meeting of the U.N. R.W.A. Advisory Committee scheduled to be held in Beirut next week has had to be cancelled, the paper said.

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THE INEVITABLE OPTIMISM

that directed, and often misdirected, British policy in the Middle East up to some years ago died very hard, for Nasser and it was probably a Glubb's dismissal by a 20-year-old Harrow educated kinklet that its last shreds were finally blown away. It has been replaced by an almost similarly determined American optimism concerning the willingness of the Arab countries to appreciate where their true interests lie, a matter that is so easily discerned by the State Department and yet often treated with total blindness in Cairo and Baghdad.

Mr. Dulles would not endanger America for the sake of personal aggrandizement and he has found it difficult to believe that Colonel Nasser could do just that to Egypt. In any case, nothing Nasser could do to the Canal, including sabotage to its installation, could appreciably affect the U.S. national standard of living, though a good number of individuals might stand to lose a great deal of money. There is no national issue here for which Mr. Dulles is bound to fight with all means at his disposal, particularly in the months preceding an election. But if Britain loses control of her oil supply, as she is liable to do within a few months of unchallenged Egyptian domination of the Suez Canal, then every family in Britain will in due course feel the pinch, and any British government unwilling to take some risk for the sake of some restoration of the former political equilibrium is still liable to find itself branded as a failure.

In his appearance at the London Conference, Dulles will also be handicapped by a sincere reluctance to demand international control because it is difficult to see how this could be made effective without Russian cooperation. On balance Mr. Dulles would probably rather see oil money lost in the Canal than be instrumental in establishing the USSR legally in a position of strength in the Middle East, after having first looked on helplessly while they established themselves without benefit of international agreement during his period of office. Indeed it is fortunate for the Republic that the tradition of bi-partisan foreign policy will prevent his deliberate blindness over Egypt in the past three or four years from being exploited as fully as it might be. His belief in Nasser has caused a major setback in America's political world leadership, even though their economic leadership may still leave them the dominant and ultimately decisive factor at the London Conference.

IN the heat and fury of the discussions over Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal and the subsequent threat to freedom of movement UNDER the movement, which it posed, a less spectacular, but no less significant, move was made and passed by almost unnoticed. This was the banning of a short while ago by the Censorship Board of Marc Connelly's Biblical play "Green Pastures" which Habimah had intended to present.

"Green Pastures" is a deeply reverent play, majestic in its simple faith. It portrays the Biblical story through the eyes of the American Negro. It is a production which, it is true, is completely antithetical to the treatment of the Delly, but it was universally admitted that in this respect, it was no different from the Habimah's midrash, and certainly had very much in common with the old-fashioned Maggid of a generation or two ago. It would have been a deeply moving experience for the Israeli public to have witnessed this production and the fact that they are being deprived of the opportunity of doing so by a mistaken and narrow-minded decision must be regretted.

But the banning of "Green Pastures" involves a principle which goes beyond the artistic quality of the play. Censorship must never be exercised for its own sake. There was nothing dangerous or offensive about the play and it was the public's freedom to prevent them by a ban on it.

NASSER PLAYING WITH FIRE

CAIRO'S INTRANSIGENCE WILL HAVE SEVERE REPERCUSSIONS FOR EGYPT

By PROFESSOR L.F. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS,
 formerly Head of the Ministry of Information & S.R.C.
 (Middle East & S.E. Asia), Director of Public Information (Govt.
 of India); Leader Writer of "The Times" (London)

IN spite of the shock which President Nasser has administered to the maritime Powers, there is no real parallel between what he has done to the Suez Canal Company and the kind of thing which Hitler had the habit of doing two decades ago. The evidence of the action, and the almost brutal terms in which it was announced represent an uncomfortable reversal to the manner, as contrasted with the substance, of Hitler's policy; and it is scarcely to President Nasser's credit that he should have seized the Company's assets in July when as recently as June he had made some formal agreement with the Canal Company; for he has been careful to announce that full freedom of navigation through the Canal will remain unaffected. What he has done is to break his word to the Company; to take over the ownership of the Canal 12 years before the Company's concession comes to an end. In acting thus, he claims that he has done more than nationalize an existing industry, thereby following the example of a great many other Governments in Asia and Europe in recent years, especially as he has offered to compensate the shareholders of the Company at the market price of their shares on the day of the takeover.

Yet, when President Nasser's action is analysed, it becomes clear that everything is not so plain sailing as he would like to have it. It is quite true that a sovereign State has the right to nationalize any industrial undertaking if it so desires, the exercise of this right has always so far been accompanied by the technique of negotiation and of compromise; and by the fundamental principle that the Government concerned is able as well as willing to pay reasonable compensation fully and promptly. True, a Government may, in the exercise of this kind of right, be of the opinion that it is in the national interest to do so; but it is careful of its international reputation, or even of its credit, and will take trouble to observe them.

International Rights
 Now in the first place the Suez Canal is not an ordinary industrial enterprise, under domestic or foreign ownership; it is a concern in which many nations have a stake. As President Nasser admitted in 1954, when he joined Britain in undertaking to uphold these rights, it is well in the second place, it is well known that it is a vital link in the world's shipping lanes, and it is a fact that it is a vital link in the world's shipping lanes, and it is a fact that it is a vital link in the world's shipping lanes.

It is no answer to their objections to say, as the leaders of some Arab and Asian countries are saying, that President Nasser has merely terminated "Western exploitation" and asserted the rights of Asian peoples to manage their own affairs in their own way. He has in fact taken advantage of physical control over the area through which the Canal runs in order to break the international word and also to set at defiance ordinary principles of honest business, to say nothing of ordinary conventions of international courtesy.

Iran did much the same thing, it will be remembered, when it nationalized the oil industry.

over the oil refineries of Abadan. But the enterprise brought her to the very verge of bankruptcy, and in the end she found it wise to make businesslike terms with those whom she had expropriated, and to let them have a sound commercial footing.

The Suez Canal is far more important to the world at large, and to the maritime nations in particular, than the Abadan refinery. The alarm which President Nasser has caused is, correspondingly more acute than the anxiety which arose from Dr. Mossadeq's action; and the repercussions will certainly be more severe for Egypt, sooner or later, than they were for Iran.

Financial Implications
 The financial implications of what President Nasser has done are serious enough, particularly in the blow which they have struck against international confidence in Egypt's credit and good faith, and in the feeling, now very present to the minds of all the maritime Powers, that neither President Nasser nor Egypt can be trusted to abide by their undertakings.

It was inevitable that President Nasser's policy of hostility to Western influence, and of trying (rather clumsily) to play off Soviet Russia against the Western Powers (and vice versa) would make him disliked in London, Washington, and Paris. No doubt he was quite prepared for this; he prefers to be liked in Riyadh, Amman, Damascus, Bagdad, and Moscow.

New Disfranchisement
 But to be disliked is one thing, and to be discredited is quite another; just as to nationalize a foreign industrial enterprise after full inquiry, negotiation, and the fixing of reasonable compensation (with provision for the payment of interest on the unilateral expropriation of foreign assets under circumstances which render proper compensation highly improbable).

There have been signs, indeed, that President Nasser is now beginning to set himself against the international community, and that he has no intention of interfering with traffic through the Canal, or of violating the International Convention by which this traffic is regulated. But these undertakings have carried little conviction with his critics. They feel that he cannot be trusted to keep his word, just because he has broken it before.

The Questionnaire
 Is this feeling just to President Nasser? Or does it spring rather from dislike of his anti-Western policy than from any solid evidence derived from his past behaviour?

It is therefore not surprising that a conference has been called for today to discuss arrangements to ensure that the Canal will be managed in future, not as Egypt's private property, but as a concern which vitally interests a large number of nations both in the East and the West. Egypt is entitled to her place in these arrangements, and no doubt to a substantial share of the profits. But the only possible way of managing satisfactorily an enterprise like the Suez Canal is to employ an international agency of the kind with which the United Nations organization has familiarized the world.

The old maxim that what touches everybody must be accepted by everybody still holds good; and President Nasser would do well to remember it.

Today's contributors include H. E. and E. K. Tel Aviv, and E. C. Jerusalem.

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Readers' Letters

REFORM SYNAGOGUE
 Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - Every year the Religious parties in the Knesset give their agreement to the maintenance of Israel of a large network of schools whose curriculum and educational ideals do not conform with the requirements of Halachic Judaism, do not strive at a life according to the Torah and the Tradition, and are sometimes void of any religious content or even strongly oppose it. The Religious parties vote yearly for the Budget of the Ministry of Education which includes large sums of State money for the purpose of religious education for the children of "other Jews" - for, in recompense, they receive a part of the State schools for their exclusive control.

The Religious parties in the Knesset - all of them - vote for the maintenance of the "other Jews" although - according to the declarations of the Religious parties - they are sworn to religion and morality. Every year, the Religious parties in the Knesset approve the budget of the Ministry of Defence which includes sums for the maintenance of the Women's Army. They do it - because, in return, the State gives them the privilege of legally shirking the service.

Representatives of the Religious parties in the Municipality of Haifa participate in operating traffic on the Sabbath; representatives of the Religious parties in the Municipality of Haifa participate in operating traffic on the Sabbath; representatives of the Religious parties in the Municipality of Haifa participate in operating traffic on the Sabbath.

What he does against the shipping of some countries is that he can easily do against the shipping of others. And he has deliberately defied a resolution of the Security Council calling upon Egypt to end this arbitrary discrimination.

Can this conduct do anything to justify the conclusion that President Nasser is quite ready to play fast and loose with any international agreements which he enters into? Or is it merely a sign of his arbitrary attitude towards the world?

However much President Nasser may justify his action on the ground that he is the champion of Arab nationalism, and the upholder of Arab rights against European exploitation, the truth is that he has arbitrarily used the machinery for controlling and maintaining an international artery in which many other countries besides Egypt have a direct interest; he has subverted the international order which was international law and character and scope, a purely Egyptian system of control; and he has done this, avowedly, in order that he can get more money to finance the Aswan Dam, regardless of the harm that may be inflicted on the Canal itself, and regardless of his inability to pay proper compensation for the property which he has seized.

International Conference
 It is therefore not surprising that a conference has been called for today to discuss arrangements to ensure that the Canal will be managed in future, not as Egypt's private property, but as a concern which vitally interests a large number of nations both in the East and the West. Egypt is entitled to her place in these arrangements, and no doubt to a substantial share of the profits. But the only possible way of managing satisfactorily an enterprise like the Suez Canal is to employ an international agency of the kind with which the United Nations organization has familiarized the world.

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MISSION TO LONDON

BAFFLED by the Israeli Government's decision to send an "unofficial observer" to the London Conference while seemingly forgetting the importance of sending dynamic propagandists to the American pre-election scene, Herut says that a mission to the U.S. could work wonders both among the Republicans and the Democrats with the added advantage of making the parties prove their support for Israel through action rather than rest satisfied with mere slogans and promises. It is an open secret, continues the paper, that the Republicans themselves are not over-enthusiastic with Dulles' foreign policy, especially after the blow America received from Nasser. The Iron is still hot and the Government must strike for the vital interests of the State of Israel.

Habesky (General Zionist) thinks that the decision to send an unofficial observer to the Conference does not enhance Israel's dignity and wonders why the Embassy in London could not be entrusted with the mission - provided an invitation to attend the conference had been extended. But there has of course been no invitation and so there is no certainty that the observer will not be asked to spend his time in the lobby. We are deeply aware of the possibility that the powers will be seeking their own benefit while ignoring Israel's interest and that the mission will not let them go by unchallenged. But we must act in a way becoming our dignity by using diplomatic channels and mustering public opinion, and not by standing behind a closed door and trying to get scraps of information.

Hamedia (World Agudat) thinks that Herut's demand that Israel take advantage of Nasser's discomfiture is most damaging and certainly not in line with the Government's policy - to other clear of the dispute so that the West might not be inclined to make concessions to Egypt at Israel's expense. It is quite possible that Mr. Egin hopes to make some political hay out of his talk but we must not allow his demagogic proposals to damage Israel's basic interests.

Yours, etc.
 A. HIRSCHBERG
 Director, Public Relations Department, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 Jerusalem, July 31.

(The above reply to a letter published in "Yesterday's" issue should have appeared together with the letter. - Ed.)

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